

NOTE.—Professor Wilson's work, compiled from the papers of Messrs. Morecroft and Trebeck is not procurable in Calcutta, or I should cite, on better authority than mere recollection, Mr. Trebeck's mention of the wild camel as now existing. I regret exceedingly I did not take a note of the passage which occurs in Mr. Trebeck's journal of a tour in Sadakh, and which mentions the confines of the great Tartaric plain as the alleged tract in which the camel is still found in a state of nature. The question is one on which even Gibbon's immense reading (*Miscell. Works. vol. i.*) throws no light beyond the caution of the authority of Diodorus Siculus, as noted by Capt. Cautley (*Lib. iii. Capt. 44.*) The only copy of Professor Wilson's work that I have seen or heard of in India, was in the possession of Sir Alex. Burnes, who while at Simla sent it to me.



Proceedings of the Asiatic Society.

(*Wednesday Evening, 2nd September, 1840.*)

Dr. John GRANT, Senior Member, in the chair.

Major RAWLINSON, Political Agent at Candahar, proposed at the last Meeting, was elected a Member of the Society.

The Secretary shewed to the Meeting an Astrolobe which had been prepared at Benares for Mons. Théroulde.

The following gentlemen were then proposed as Members,

M. P. EDGEWORTH, Esq.

Capt. W. LOVEDAY, *ditto.*

Capt. T. HUTTON, *37th Regt. N. I.*

Dr. J. D. D. HEBERLIN.

Captain KITTOE presented to the Society the egg of an Alligator, and the egg of the Caprimulgus (rarely found), with some specimens of precious serpentine found near Sumbhulpore.

Several papers were submitted to the Society, which either have appeared, or are in course of preparation for the Journal; two Reports by the late Dr. HELPER, on the Mergui Archipelago, were among these.

Specimens of the Ground Fish of the eastern part of Bengal were presented by — White, Esq. of Kishnaghur, they were dug up from a depth of twelve feet below the surface of the earth in Nuddeea. For notice of this fish, vide *Asiatic Society's Journal vol. viii. p. 551.*

A model of a Monster communicated by Colonel CAULFIELD, Resident at Lucknow, was made over to the Medical College.

A letter was read from Professor WILSON, stating that arrangements have been made for preparation of the bust of our late Secretary Mr. James PRINSEP; thanks of the Society were voted to Professor WILSON, for having thus anticipated the wishes of the Society.

A letter from Professor LASSEN, of Bonn, was read, acknowledging the receipt of several numbers of the Journal, and offering to dispose of any Sanscrit works the Society might think proper to send to Bonn for sale;—transferred to the Committee of Papers.

Specimens of Fossil Alcyonites from Girhur, a village about 40 miles from Nagpore, were submitted by Dr. SPILSBURY of Jubbulpore, with extract from a Madras paper noting the experiment performed by PARKINSON on similar fossils, viz. immersion in diluted muriatic acid, which having removed about a quarter of an inch of the substance of the fossil, enabled the observer to perceive with a lens of moderate power, several cruciform spines, formed, as it were, by two fusiform bodies crossing each other at right angles; he supposes from their having withstood the action of the muriatic acid, that these bodies, which were originally the spines of the animal, are now formed of hydrophanous chalcedony, and imbedded in a matrix of carbonate of lime, which has pervaded or supplied the place of the soft spongy parts. "I placed one of these alcyonites," says Dr. SPILSBURY, "in diluted muriatic acid, which produced exactly the effect described in the paper above quoted, and with the magnifying glass, the silicious radiæ from a centre became very apparent."

A communication was read from A. GRANT, Esq. Magistrate of Delhi, announcing his having dispatched to the Society a case of forged seals discovered among the ruins near the town, by a party of prisoners while at work there. They purported to be the seals of most of the persons of note who held authority during the decline of the Mogul Empire, and must have been used in the fabrication of false sunnuds, deeds, and warrants. This curious collection has since been received and lodged in the Museum.

A lithograph, prepared by the celebrated RITTER, shewing the altitude of the snow line throughout Asia, was presented to the Society by Dr. JAMIESON, of Umballah, with a promise of communications on the result of recent observations by him upon the formation of the Himalyas.

The Officiating Secretary informed the Society that the letter press of Ritter's Sections was in progress of translation, and that the whole should appear in the Journal.

A communication from the Rev. Professor STREET, of Bishop's College, with extracts from a manuscript in the Library of the College by FRA GIUSEPPE DA ROVATO, was read to the Society. The manuscript, dating from 1755, contained with various miscellaneous notices, on Hindoo Mythology and Literature, a notice of some of the antiquities which had struck the Rev. gentleman; among others, the following notice of the well known columns in Tirhoot, by which it would appear that both the columns had then, when FRA GIUSEPPE examined them, the figure of a lion on their capital.

"In regnis ergo Bettæ duas ego vidi columnas, in duas provincias differentes, quæ quidem æquales sunt, ex integro et solo lapide, habentes altitudinis viginti septem cubitos supra terram, et septem in circumferentia, cum supraposito proportionato Leone. In utraque columna ex eodem caractere quasi eadem videntur esse verba. Quas litteras ego retraxi, et misi ad diversa loca, sed nemo potuit neque intelligere neque legere; non sunt litteræ Indianæ, neque ultramontanæ, sunt ex aliquo Græco quia multæ litteræ sunt de Græco Alphabeto, aliquæ vero non. In fine vero descriptionis legitur in Arabico Idiomate "* * * * primus minister magui Alexandri erexit:" nomen vero non benè legitur."

The writer of the manuscript was a member of the Roman Catholic Mission in Nipal and Thibet from 1769 to 1787, about which time the monastery was pillaged

and the Mission ejected by the Goorkahs, then extending their conquests in every direction. The greater part of the Library, attached to the Mission was, the Officiating Secretary observes, brought off to Katmandhoo, and preserved there with great care. Mr. HODGSON, he believed, and Mr. ROSS BELL, while Assistant Resident there, had succeeded in obtaining many of the books so preserved.

Captain BURR's Letter, with facsimile of a new Asoka edict, was submitted to the Society. This interesting relic is published in the present number (102) of the Journal.

A Skeleton of a Cobra Capella, beautifully prepared by M. BOUCHEZ, was on the table for the inspection of the Meeting.

For all the above contributions and presentations, the thanks of the Society were accorded, and the meeting broke up considerably after 10 o'clock, P. M.
